



September  
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D. Blair Camp  
Mayor

[mayor@murray.utah.gov](mailto:mayor@murray.utah.gov)

801-264-2600

## Public Safety Advisory Board

Public safety in Murray City has been a priority for as long as the city has existed. The Murray City Police Department was established in 1903, the same year as city incorporation, and included a single town marshal. The fire department was organized in 1906 as an all-volunteer force. As the city has grown and developed over the years, our police and fire departments have evolved to keep up with the demands. What began as a city of about 4,000 residents has today become a thriving city of 50,000, plus a daytime population of at least double that number. Today the police department consists of 89 full-time professional employees and the fire department is an expert organization of 64 personnel responding from three fire stations.

Recent events across the country, including rallies, protests, and even riots, have put public safety departments, particularly police agencies, under a microscope. In an effort to improve transparency and increase public involvement in our public safety departments, Murray City is adding a new board to the many other volunteer boards and commissions with the creation of a Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB).

The purpose of the PSAB is to represent concerns of diverse citizen groups and broad interests of the community as a whole, and to foster understanding and communication between the residents and businesses of the city and our police and fire departments. The board will also review community needs and concerns, expectations, and responses related to police and fire services. It will be a goal of the board to encourage the highest ethical standards in public safety. It is anticipated that the PSAB will meet monthly.

We are fortunate in Murray that our police and fire departments already actively engage in public outreach programs and have built good relationships with the community at large over the years. Murray has not experienced the "big city" problems that have impacted many police departments in the country. I anticipate that the PSAB will assist us in keeping it that way and will be a benefit and support to our police and fire chiefs. I believe the city can always do better, and it is my hope that this board will be an additional resource to our public safety departments to assist in continuous improvement.



The Public Safety Advisory Board will consist of seven volunteer board members, with five being residents of the city and the remaining two either living or working in the city. The objective is to have members from diverse backgrounds and from all geographical areas of the city. With that in mind, I am inviting individuals who want to be considered to serve on this board to submit a resume and letter of interest. The city will accept resumes and letters during the month of September, with a deadline of September 30. They can be submitted to the mayor's office by email at [mayor@murray.utah.gov](mailto:mayor@murray.utah.gov) or by postal service to Murray City Mayor's Office, 5025 South State Street, 2nd Floor, Murray UT 84107.

Board members selected will be very busy during the initial six months of service, with a number of training activities, including open and public meeting act; confidentiality, privacy and due process rights; police and fire department policies and procedures; rights of victims, criminal defendants, and suspects; and other topics in addition to ride-a-long opportunities with our public safety professionals.

I wish to reiterate my appreciation of the men and women who serve in our police and fire departments. They are hard-working professionals who strive day-in and day-out to protect and serve this city. I anticipate that the PSAB will be a positive resource in the continual improvement of the public safety service provided to Murray City.